

Remarks

Claims 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 27, and 29 have been amended; claims 22-26 have been cancelled; and new claims 31-38 have been added leaving claims 1-21 and 27-38 pending in the application. New claims 31-38 do not constitute new matter as they are supported at, for example, pages 13-39 of the originally filed specification.

Claims 1-13 have been allowed.

Claims 14-21 have been objected to due to informalities, but are indicated to be allowable if these informalities are overcome. Claims 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 21 have been amended to overcome these informalities and are now believed to be allowable.

Claims 22-30 have been rejected as indefinite for failing to recite the composition and pressure defining the "near azeotrope." Claims 22-26 have been rejected as obvious but claims 27-30 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the rejected base claim (claim 22) and any intervening claims.

The limitations of claim 22 have been incorporated into claims 27 and 29 respectively. Claims 27 and 29 respectively recite, as cancelled claim 22 recited, "a near-azeotropic mixture." The Examiner is referred to page 4 of the originally filed specification which recites:

For purposes of this discussion, a near-azeotrope means a composition which behaves like an azeotrope (i.e., has constant-boiling characteristics or a tendency not to fractionate upon boiling or evaporation). Thus, the composition of the vapor formed during boiling or evaporation of such compositions is the same as or substantially the same as the original liquid composition. Hence, during boiling or evaporation, the liquid composition, if it changes at all, changes only to a minimal or negligible extent.

As near azeotrope is defined in the specification, the recitation in the claims of "a near-azeotropic mixture" is sufficiently definite to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as at least an embodiment of an invention.


The Examiner has indicated that claim 27, as amended to include the limitations of claim 22, is allowable. Claim 28 and new claims 31-34 depend from amended claim 27 and are allowable for at least the reasons amended claim 27 is allowable.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 29, as amended to include the limitations of claim 22, is allowable. Claim 30 and new claims 35-38 depend from amended claim 29 and are allowable for at least the reasons amended claim 29 is allowable.

Claims 1-21 and 27-38 are believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Applicant requests allowance of claims 1-21 and 27-38 in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 1/10/05

By: 
Robert C. Hyta
Reg. No. 46,791

-END OF DOCUMENT-